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LETTER DATED 26 SEPTEMBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I submit herewith, pursuant to paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 929 (1994), of 22 June 1994, the final report on Operation Turquoise.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MERIMÉE

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Annex

Final report on Operation Turquoise authorized by Security Council resolution 929 (1994)

## I. TROOP CONTINGENT

Operation Turquoise, launched on 22 June 1994 and concluded on 21 August 1994, was placed under the command of General Lafourcade, who had at his disposal an inter-service theatre command post (PCIAT) at Goma (Zaire), linked directly to the Paris Inter-Service Operational Centre. The multinational Turquoise Force, under French command, was made up of over 3,060 men, including 508 foreign troops of seven nationalities (Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Chad, Mauritania, Egypt, Niger and Congo). Turquoise Force was fully deployed effective 13 July. The first withdrawals began on 29 July.

At the conclusion of the operation Turquoise Force was deployed as follows:

Zaire:

A PCIAT at Goma,

An air base at Kissangani, at which combat aircraft were deployed,

A transit component at Bukavu;

Rwanda:

A north group of three French combat units at Kibuyé with operational control over Senegalese, Niger, Guinea-Bissau and Congolese contingents,

A specialist group with four units at Gikongoro,

A south group comprising two combat units at Cyangugu,

A quick reaction military medical unit (EMMIR) at Cyangugu,

Three transit bases: Bangui, Libreville and Douala.

## II. COMPOSITION OF THE FORCE

2.1 Inter-service units:

A PCIAT (324 troops),

An EMMIR (51 troops),

A specialist detachment with five helicopters (218 troops),

Three detachments of the armed forces refuelling service (34 troops).

2.2 Air Force units:

Four Jaguars,

A flight of four Mirage F.ICRs,

Four Mirage F.ICTs,

Two C-135FRs,

Two CASA 235s,

Five tactical transport aircraft (C-130s, C-160s),

Two SA 330 helicopters (SAR),

An Air Force engineering unit.

2.3 Navy:

One Atlantic.

2.4 Army units:

2.4.1 Command:

Two tactical headquarters (104 troops),

A command and services company (150 troops).

2.4.2 Combat:

Four motorized infantry companies (500 troops),

A 12-vehicle light armoured car squadron (110 troops),

Two 6-piece heavy mortar sections (118 troops),

A combat engineering section (25 troops),

An Army Air Force (ALAT) detachment, with three Puma troop-carrying helicopters (60 troops).

2.4.3 Logistics:

A logistic support battalion (380 troops).

## III. DEPLOYMENT

First phase (22 June to 6 July 1994)

Initially deployed at Goma and Bukavu, Turquoise Force then reconnoitred several main routes:

In the north, from Goma towards Kibuyé and the N'Daba pass,

In the south, from Bukavu, in the Nyungwe forest sector as far as Gikongoro and Butare.

Second phase (7 to 31 July 1994)

Effective 7 July, in response to the mass movement of refugees fleeing the area of combat between Rwandese armed forces and the Rwandese Patriotic Front, a safe humanitarian zone (ZHS) was established in south-west Rwanda. Within this zone Turquoise Force troops were deployed in three sectors: Kibuyé, Gikongoro and Cyangugu. Until 20 July elements of the Force reconnoitred their new positions and began to assert control over the zone.

From 20 July to the end of the month Turquoise Force maintained that deployment. At the same time African contingents from Senegal, Congo, the Niger and Guinea-Bissau established a presence in the Kibuyé region, while the Chadian contingent deployed in the Nyungwe forest.

Third phase (31 July to 21 August 1994)

From 31 July on, while occupying the same deployment locations, Turquoise Force began to reduce its number of troops. The Chadian contingent established a presence in the Musange region in mid-August.

The progressive arrival of Ghanian and Ethiopian contingents and the grouping of the five French-speaking African contingents in the area of Kibuyé and Musange allowed control of the safe humanitarian zone to be transferred to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) on 21 August 1994.

Fourth phase (from 21 August 1994)

French units based in Goma, Zaire, provided logistical support for the French-speaking African contingents by using barges to conduct the necessary replenishment and supply operations.

## IV. EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION OF THE END OF OPERATION TURQUOISE

With the departure of French units from the safe humanitarian zone the situation remains stable. Some 1.4 million displaced persons and refugees are still in the zone. Of that total, some 50,000 moved to Zaire (Bukavu) in the final days before the departure of French troops.

## V. ASSESSMENT OF ACTION TAKEN

Action by Turquoise Force put an end to the massacres in Rwanda and ensured the protection of the population in the safe humanitarian zone as well as the transition to UNAMIR II under satisfactory circumstances.

The establishment of the safe zone also stabilized a displaced population of approximately 1.4 million.

The presence of Turquoise Force in Rwanda made it possible above all to conduct international humanitarian activities (Government and other), since before the arrival of the French units no agency had been able to conduct significant activities in the area held by the former Rwandese Government.

In addition Turquoise Force was itself involved in humanitarian activities, as follows:

Delivery of 686 tons of government humanitarian aid,

Distribution of 6,000 cubic metres of drinking water in Goma,

Delivery of 250 tons of supplies on behalf of NGOs,

7,811 days of hospitalization for the population,

10,190 medical consultations,

708 surgical procedures,

75,793 health-care procedures,

8,000 corpses collected by the Force,

20,500 interments by air force engineers,

Evacuation of 3,500 individuals, including 1,000 orphans and 600 nuns from Rwanda, where their lives were threatened.

Lastly, the presence of Turquoise Force in the safe zone made it possible to gather reports of abuses against the population. These reports have been transmitted to the competent United Nations authorities.

## VI. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATION

Operation Turquoise may be considered successful given the delicate circumstances in which it was conducted. The aim was to re-establish, through the use of force, a situation in which humanitarian activities could be carried out. A decisive factor in the operation, undertaken at a time of conflict between RPF and the former Rwandese Government forces, was the strict observance of neutrality. The translation into reality of the concept of a safe

humanitarian zone made it possible to shelter the population from combat and for humanitarian organizations to conduct activities.

The first requirement in the safe zone was to make it clear that military intervention was genuinely impartial. It will also be noted that there has been no mass exodus following the departure of the French, notwithstanding the disturbances caused by certain alarmist media statements which might have led to such an exodus.

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